ORIGINAL 0056 David B. Sanders, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 7895 Huong X. Lam, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 10916 THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 820 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 4 (702) 435-4175 Telephone Attorneys for Defendant Noteworld, LLC 5 DISTRICT COURT 6 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 7 MARK BERNSTEIN, an Individual 8 820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Case No. A-09-596386-C Plaintiff, 9 ٧Ş. THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP Phone (702) 435-4175 - Fax (702) 877-7424 Dept. No. IX 10 NOTEWORLD, LLC, a Foreign Limited Date: November 24, 2009 Liability Company; SALVADOR 11 RODRIGUEZ, an Individual; DOES I - X, Time: 9:00 a.m. Inclusive; and ROE Corporations I - X, 12 A-09-596386-C Inclusive, 537579 Defendants. 13 14 DEFENDANT NOTEWORLD, LLC'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO 15 DISMISS OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT 16 OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT 17 COMES NOW Defendants, NOTEWORLD, LLC (hereinafter "Noteworld") by and 18 through its counsel of record, THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP, and hereby submits 19 its Reply in Support of Motion to Dismiss, or in the alternative, Motion for Summary 20 21 Judgment, and Opposition to Countermotion for Leave to File Plaintiff's First Amended 22 Complaint. 23 // RECEIVED 24 NOV 2 0 2009

- 1 -

CLERK OF THE COURT

I

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. Introduction

Defendant Noteworld's Reply purely tests the ability of Plaintiff to present claims under the legal theories alleged and will address the arguments presented in Plaintiff's Opposition.

Dismissal with prejudice is necessary in this matter because Plaintiff's Complaint is legally deficient and fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Plaintiffs Opposition to Noteworld's Motion to Dismiss, or in the alternative, for Summary Judgment, fails to address fundamental flaws in Plaintiff's Complaint and attempts to cloud the issue with unsubstantiated allegations. As such, Plaintiff thereby concedes that Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief by this defendant can be granted. Even accepting each allegation in Plaintiff's Complaint as true and drawing all justifiable inferences in his favor, Plaintiff cannot establish or maintain any cause of action against Noteworld.

Plaintiff's Complaint for Quiet Title pursuant to NRS 40.010 should be dismissed with prejudice. Alternatively, it is respectfully requested this Court enter summary judgment in favor of Noteworld on Plaintiff's claim for Quiet Title. It is further requested that Plaintiff's Countermotion for leave to amend the Complaint be denied.

11. Plaintiff's Complaint for Quiet Title Against Defendant Noteworld Should Be Dismissed with Prejudice, or in the alternatively, Summary Judgment Should be Granted in Favor of Defendant Noteworld.

Dismiss, or in the alternative, summary judgment is proper in this case because there is no need for any discovery in this case. As a preliminary matter, the very nature of Noteworld's Motion negates any need for discovery. Even if the Court were to accept as true all facts contained in the Complaint, Plaintiff's claim against Noteworld for Quiet Title fails on its face. Zalk-Josephs Co. v. Wells Cargo, Inc., 81 Nev 163, 400 P.2d 621 (1965); Simpson v. Mars,

Inc., 113 Nev. 188, 929 P.2d 966 (1997). If this Court were to adjudicate the matter on the merits and quiet title in the Property in Plaintiff, Noteworld makes no claim to possession or interest to the Property. As such, Plaintiff's claim for Quiet Title pursuant to NRS 40.010 must fail as a matter of law. No amount of discovery will reveal documents that will change the fact that Noteworld is a mere servicer and makes no claim to possession or interest in the Property.

Furthermore, Plaintiff makes the questionable assertion that "[s]ufficient discovery has not been conducted for Plaintiff to determine the actual entities that have a claim to possession or interest to the Tonopah Property." (See Opposition 5:9-10). As stated in the Motion to Dismiss, upon service of the Complaint, Noteworld contacted counsel for Bernstein and requested voluntary dismissal from the case because Noteworld "makes no claim to possession — in full or in part — to the properties at issue." (See Motion to Dismiss, Exhibit E). Despite this request, Noteworld was not dismissed from the instant lawsuit, and as a consequence, has had to retain counsel and incur fees and costs to defend this matter. Plaintiff's own admission that sufficient discovery had not been conducted for Plaintiff to determine the actual entities that have a claim to possession or interest to the Property proves that Plaintiff's claim for Quiet Title against Noteworld are without merit and were asserted in bad faith without due diligence. Plaintiff has simply failed to do his homework prior to filing the Complaint. As such, Noteworld should be awarded attorneys fees and costs for having to defend this matter and bring this motion.

III. Opposition to Countermotion for Leave to File an Amended Complaint

A. While Leave To Amend Is To Be Freely Given, Plaintiff Should Not Be Allowed To Amend The Complaint Because The Freedom To Permit Amendment Is Not Absolute.

Plaintiffs must not be permitted to amend their Complaint against Noteworld because

Plaintiff has failed to address the major defects that exist in their case. Although Nevada's

pleading laws are quite liberal, it does not constitute an open invitation to amend. While leave

to amend is to be freely given, the freedom is not absolute. The Nevada Supreme Court stated in <u>Brown v. Capanna</u>, "the requirement that the amending party acquire leave of the court suggests that there are instances in which leave should not be granted." 105 Nev. 665, 668, 782 P.2d 1299, 1301 (1989). In <u>Brown</u>, the Court affirmed the trial court's refusal to permit plaintiffs to amend their negligence allegation when the Court had already awarded partial summary judgment against the plaintiffs on the negligence issue.

Similarly, Plaintiff continues to pursue the claim for Quiet Title Pursuant to NRS 40.010 against Noteworld in the amended Complaint. As stated above, Noteworld makes no claim to title or possession of the Property at issue. Should this Court grant dismissal or summary judgment in favor of Noteworld, Plaintiff should not be allowed to relitigate the matter by way of amended pleadings.

B. Plaintiff's While Leave To Amend Is To Be Freely Given, Plaintiff Should Not Be Allowed To Amend The Complaint Because The Freedom To Permit Amendment Is Not Absolute.

A court should not allow amendment when the proposed amendment of the pleading does not state a legally recognizable claim. Accordingly, a judge may, in a property case, deny a motion for leave to amend. See Foman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962); Stephens v. S. Nevada Music Co., Inc., 89 Nev. 104, 507 P.2d 138 (1973); see also Edwards v. City of Goldsboro, 178 F.3d 231, 242 (4th Cir. 1999) (leave may be denied when amendment would be futile); Leffal v. Dalla Indep. School Dist., 28 F.3d 521, 524 (5th Cir. 1994) (valid reasons for denial are timeliness and futility); Roth v. Garcia Marquez, 942 F.2d 617, 628 (9th Cir. 1991) (four factors – bad faith, undue delay, prejudice, and futility – are commonly used to determine if court should grant leave); Moore v. Kayport Package Express, Inc., 885 F.2d 531, 538 (9th Cir. 1989) (denial of leave proper when amendment was subject to dismissal for failure to state a claim).

As the above authority demonstrates, a party should not be granted leave to amend a pleading where the sought after amendment is legally insufficient to state a cause of action. In

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this case, Plaintiff's should not be allowed leave to amend because they have not presented any evidence to suggest they have a meritorious claim against Noteworld.

Plaintiff's amended Complaint makes unspecified claims against Noteworld and references whole sections of the U.S. code and whole section of Nevada Revised Statutes. Plaintiff's Second Cause of Action references 15 USC 1692e; this section of the U.S. Code contains sixteen separate and distinct possible violations a debt collector could make in the process of collecting a debt. (See attached Exhibit AA). Plaintiff's Third Cause of Action (erroneously labelled Second Cause of Action) references 15 USC 1692f; this provision of the U.S. Code contains eight separate and distinct possible violations a debt collector could make in the process of collecting a debt. (See attached Exhibit BB). Plaintiff's Fourth Cause of Action (erroneously labelled Third Cause of Action) references NRS 598.0915; this provision of the Nevada Revised Statutes defines "Deceptive trade practice" and contains sixteen separate and distinct possible actions a person/business would have to knowingly take to meet the statutory definition of deceptive trade practice. (See attached Exhibit CC). Thus, in Plaintiff's proposed amended Complaint, Plaintiff has accused Noteworld of a total of forty violations of the law.

Plaintiff simply cannot state a claim against Noteworld and is making a futile and desperate attempt to keep the case afloat. Plaintiff should not be allowed to amend the Complaint due to Plaintiff's blatant disregard for Nevada's pleading requirements and failure to state a cognizable claim upon which relief can be granted. As such, the Countermotion for leave to amend the Complaint should be denied in its entirety.

IV. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Defendant Noteworld respectfully requests this Court to dismiss with prejudice Plaintiff's Complaint in its entirety, or alternatively, grant summary

judgment in favor of Defendant Noteworld on Plaintiff's claim. Defendant Noteworld also requests that leave to amend the Complaint be denied. It is further requested that Defendant be awarded attorneys' fees and costs for having to defend this case and to submit this motion. THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP David B. Sanders, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 7895 Huong X. Lam, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 10916 820 S. Valley View Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89107 (702) 435-4175 Telephone Attorneys for Defendant Noteworld, LLC

(Page 7 of 15)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP, and that on the day of November, 2009, I served a true and correct copy of the DEFENDANT NOTEWORLD, LLC'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT and OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT via First Class US Mail, postage prepaid to the parties listed below.

Malcolm P. LaVergne, Esq. The LaVegerne Law Group 320 East Charleston Blvd., Suite 203 Las Vegas, NV 89104

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

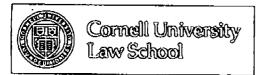
An employee of

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP

EXHIBIT "AA"

US CODE: Title 15,1692e. False or misleading representations

Page 1 of 2



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U.S. Code collection

TITLE 15 > CHAPTER 41 > SUBCHAPTER V > § 1692e § 1692e. False or misleading representations

A debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

- (1) The false representation or implication that the debt collector is vouched for, bonded by, or affiliated with the United States or any State, including the use of any badge, uniform, or facsimile thereof.
- (2) The false representation of—
 - (A) the character, amount, or legal status of any debt; or
 - (B) any services rendered or compensation which may be lawfully received by any debt collector for the collection of a debt.
- (3) The false representation or implication that any individual is an attorney or that any communication is from an attorney.
- (4) The representation or implication that nonpayment of any debt will result in the arrest or imprisonment of any person or the seizure, garnishment, attachment, or sale of any property or wages of any person unless such action is lawful and the debt collector or creditor intends to take such action.
- (5) The threat to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken.
- (6) The false representation or implication that a sale, referral, or other transfer of any interest in a debt shall cause the consumer to—
 - (A) lose any claim or defense to payment of the debt; or
 - (B) become subject to any practice prohibited by this subchapter.
- (7) The false representation or implication that the consumer committed any crime or other conduct in order to disgrace the consumer.
- (8) Communicating or threatening to communicate to any person credit information which is known or which should be known to be false, including the failure to communicate that a disputed debt is disputed.
- (9) The use or distribution of any written communication which simulates or is falsely represented to be a document authorized, issued, or approved by any court, official, or

US CODE: Title 15,1692e. False or misleading representations

Page 2 of 2

agency of the United States or any State, or which creates a false impression as to its source, authorization, or approval.

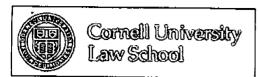
- (10) The use of any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a consumer.
- (11) The failure to disclose in the initial written communication with the consumer and, in addition, if the initial communication with the consumer is oral, in that initial oral communication, that the debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and that any information obtained will be used for that purpose, and the failure to disclose in subsequent communications that the communication is from a debt collector, except that this paragraph shall not apply to a formal pleading made in connection with a legal action.
- (12) The false representation or implication that accounts have been turned over to innocent purchasers for value.
- (13) The false representation or implication that documents are legal process.
- (14) The use of any business, company, or organization name other than the true name of the debt collector's business, company, or organization.
- (15) The false representation or implication that documents are not legal process forms or do not require action by the consumer.
- (16) The false representation or implication that a debt collector operates or is employed by a consumer reporting agency as defined by section 1681a (f) of this title.

LII has no control over and does not endorse any external Internet site that contains links to or references LII.

EXHIBIT "BB"

US CODE: Title 15,1692f. Unfair practices

Page 1 of 2



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U.S. Code collection

TITLE 15 > CHAPTER 41 > SUBCHAPTER V > § 1692f § 1692f. Unfair practices

A debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following conduct is a violation of this section:

- (1) The collection of any amount (including any interest, fee, charge, or expense incidental to the principal obligation) unless such amount is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or permitted by law.
- (2) The acceptance by a debt collector from any person of a check or other payment instrument postdated by more than five days unless such person is notified in writing of the debt collector's intent to deposit such check or instrument not more than ten nor less than three business days prior to such deposit.
- (3) The solicitation by a debt collector of any postdated check or other postdated payment instrument for the purpose of threatening or instituting criminal prosecution.
- (4) Depositing or threatening to deposit any postdated check or other postdated payment instrument prior to the date on such check or instrument.
- (5) Causing charges to be made to any person for communications by concealment of the true purpose of the communication. Such charges include, but are not limited to, collect telephone calls and telegram fees.
- (6) Taking or threatening to take any nonjudicial action to effect dispossession or disablement of property if—
 - (A) there is no present right to possession of the property claimed as collateral through an enforceable security interest;
 - (B) there is no present intention to take possession of the property; or
 - (C) the property is exempt by law from such dispossession or disablement.
- (7) Communicating with a consumer regarding a debt by post card.
- (8) Using any language or symbol, other than the debt collector's address, on any envelope when communicating with a consumer by use of the mails or by telegram, except that a debt collector may use his business name if such name does not indicate that he is in the debt collection business.

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Page 2 of 2

 $http://uscode.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode15/usc_sec_15_00001692---f000-.html$

11/18/2009

EXHIBIT "CC"

NRS 598.0915 "Deceptive trade practice" defined. A person engages in a "deceptive trade practice" if, in the course of his business or occupation, he:

- 1. Knowingly passes off goods or services for sale or lease as those of another person.
- 2. Knowingly makes a false representation as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of goods or services for sale or lease.
- 3. Knowingly makes a false representation as to affiliation, connection, association with or certification by another person.
- 4. Uses deceptive representations or designations of geographic origin in connection with goods or services for sale or lease.
- 5. Knowingly makes a false representation as to the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, alterations or quantities of goods or services for sale or lease or a false representation as to the sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation or connection of a person therewith.
- 6. Represents that goods for sale or lease are original or new if he knows or should know that they are deteriorated, altered, reconditioned, reclaimed, used or secondhand.
- 7. Represents that goods or services for sale or lease are of a particular standard, quality or grade, or that such goods are of a particular style or model, if he knows or should know that they are of another standard, quality, grade, style or model.
- 8. Disparages the goods, services or business of another person by false or misleading representation of fact.
- 9. Advertises goods or services with intent not to sell or lease them as advertised.
- 10. Advertises goods or services for sale or lease with intent not to supply reasonably expectable public demand, unless the advertisement discloses a limitation of quantity.
- 11. Advertises goods or services as being available free of charge with intent to require payment of undisclosed costs as a condition of receiving the goods or services.
- 12. Advertises under the guise of obtaining sales personnel when the purpose is to first sell or lease goods or services to the sales personnel applicant.
- 13. Makes false or misleading statements of fact concerning the price of goods or services for sale or lease, or the reasons for, existence of or amounts of price reductions.
- 14. Fraudulently alters any contract, written estimate of repair, written statement of charges or other document in connection with the sale or lease of goods or services.
- 15. Knowingly makes any other false representation in a transaction.
- 16. Knowingly falsifies an application for credit relating to a retail installment transaction, as defined in NRS 97.115.

(Added to NRS by 1973, 1483; A 1983, 881; 1985, 2256; 1995, 1094; 1997, 1375; 1999, 3280; 2001, 489, 2149)

A-09-596386-C

DISTRICT COURT **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

Title to Property	itle to Property COURT MINUTES November 24, 2009	
A-09-596386-C	Mark Bernstein, Plaintiff(s)	
	vs.	
	NoteWorld LLC; Salvador Rodriguez,	Defendant(s)

November 24, 2009

9:00 AM

All Pending Motions

HEARD BY: Togliatti, Jennifer

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 14A

COURT CLERK: Alan Castle; Dawn Jackson

RECORDER: Yvette Lester

PARTIES

PRESENT:

Lam, Huong

Attorney

Lavergne, Malcolm P.

Attorney

JOURNAL ENTRIES

- Defendant Noteworld, LLC's Motion to Dismiss, or in the Alternative, Motion for Summary Judgment ... Plaintiff Mark Bernstein's Opposition to Defendant Noteworld, LLC's Motion To Dismiss and Countermotion for Leave To File an Amended Complaint

Arguments by counsel. Court stated it's Findings and ORDERED, motion to Dismiss Granted In Part. FURTHER, counter motion to amend GRANTED.

PRINT DATE:

11/24/2009

Page 1 of 1

Minutes Date:

November 24, 2009

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1.	The Property was purchased on or about July 1, 1980 by Plaintiff MARK
	BERNSTEIN ("Plaintiff" or "Bernstein") and his then wife, Karen Bernstein
	from Sycamore Properties;

- 2. The Note on the loan was secured by first and second Deeds of Trusts, dated July 1, 1980, executed by Bernstein and his then wife, Karen Bernstein. The first and second Deeds of Trusts were recorded on July 9, 1980 as Instrument No. 1209825 in Book 1250, and Instrument No. 1209826 in Book 1250 in the Official Records in the County Recorder's Office of Clark County, Nevada;
- On or about June 13, 1994, the first and second Deeds of Trusts were assigned
 to Salvador Rodriguez. The Assignments of the first and second Deeds of
 Trusts were recorded on June 22, 1994 at Instrument No. 199406220001554 and
 Instrument No. 199406220001555;
- 4. Noteworld has no claim to title or possession in the Property. No amount of discovery will reveal documents that will change the fact that Noteworld makes no claim to possession or interest in the Property.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- Summary judgment is appropriate because the pleadings and evidence demonstrate no genuine material issue remains to be decided in regards to Plaintiff's claim for Quiet Title against Noteworld;
- 2. Plaintiff's claim against Noteworld for Quiet Title fails as a matter of law;
- 3. Plaintiff may submit a proposed Second Amended Complaint.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated herein;
- 2. Summary Judgment is appropriate in this matter because the pleadings and evidence demonstrate that no genuine material issue of facts remains to be

decided as to Plaintiff's First Cause of Action for Quiet Title Against 1 2 Noteworld; 3. Plaintiff may submit a proposed Second Amended Complaint within 20 days of 3 4 entry of this order. day of January, 2010. 5 6 JENNIFER P. TOGLIATTI 7 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 8 820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Phone (702) 435-4175 ■ Fax (702) 877-7424 9 THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP Respectfully Submitted By: 10 THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, 11 LLP 12 David B. Sanders, Esq. (7895) Huong X. Lam, Esq. (10916) 13 820 S. Valley View Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89107 14 (702) 435-4175 Telephone Attorneys for Defendant 15 Noteworld, LLC 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

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ORIGINAL 1 NEOJ David B. Sanders, Esq. (7895) Huong X. Lam, Esq. (10916) THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 2 820 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 3 (702) 435-4175 Telephone Attorneys for Defendant Noteworld, LLC 4 5 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 MARK BERNSTEIN, an Individual 7 Plaintiff, 8 VS. 320 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Dept. No. IX NOTEWORLD, LLC, a Foreign Limited THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP Phone (702) 435-4175 = Fax (702) 877-7424 Liability Company; SALVADOR 10 RODRIGUEZ, an Individual; DOES I - X, Inclusive; and ROE Corporations I - X, 647728 11 Inclusive. Defendants. 12 13 TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD: 14 15 16 day of January, 2010, a copy of which is attached hereto. 17 DATED this 22 day of January, 2010. 18 19 20 David B. Sanders, Esq. 21 Huong X. Lam, Esq. 22 RECEIVED Las Vegas, NV 89107 JAN 2 2 2010 23 CLERK OF THE COURT Attorneys for Defendant 24 Noteworld, LLC

FILED

JAN 22 3 42 PM 10

Case No. A-09-596386-C

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

A-09-596386-C

YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the ORDER

ON HEARING NOVEMBER 24, 2009 was entered in the above-referenced matter on the 20th

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP

Auf Male #113/0

Nevada State Bar No. 7895 Nevada State Bar No. 10916 820 S. Valley View Boulevard (702) 435-4175 Telephone

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 22 day of January, 2010, I served a true and

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correct copy of the NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER via First Class U.S. Mail, postage pre-

paid, to the parties listed hereinafter at their last known address.

5

6 Malcolm P. LaVergne, Esq.

The LaVegerne Law Group

320 East Charleston Blvd., Suite 203

Las Vegas, NV 89104

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820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Phone (702) 435-4175 m Fax (702) 877-7424

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP

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An employee of

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP

ORDR 1 David B. Sanders, Esq. (7895) FIL.ED Huong X. Lam, Esq. (10916)
THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 2 820 S. Valley View Blvd. 3 50 PH 10 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 (702) 435-4175 Telephone Attorneys for Defendant 4 Noteworld, LLC 5 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 MARK BERNSTEIN, an Individual 7 Plaintiff, Case No. A-09-596386-C 8 VS. 820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Phone (702) 435-4175 **F** Fax (702) 877-7424 Dept, No. IX NOTEWORLD, LLC, a Foreign Limited THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP Liability Company; SALVADOR ORDER ON HEARING 10 RODRIGUEZ, an Individual; DOES I - X, **NOVEMBER 24, 2009** Inclusive; and ROE Corporations I - X, 11 Inclusive. Defendants. 12 13 This matter, having come before the Court on November 24, 2009, Defendant 14 NOTEWORLD, LLC, ("Noteworld"), having appeared by and through counsel Huong X. Lam, 15 Esq., of The Cooper Castle Law Firm, and Plaintiff MARK BERNSTEIN having appeared by 16 and through counsel Malcolm LaVergne, Esq., of The LaVergne Law Group, the Court having 17 considered the Motion, Opposition and Countermotion, Reply and Opposition, and arguments 18 of counsel under NRCP 56 and good cause appearing, sets forth the Findings of Fact, 19 Conclusions of Law and Order as follows: 20 FINDINGS OF FACT: 21 This matter deals with real property located in Las Vegas, Nevada, commonly known as 22 2517 E. Tonopah Ave., N. Las Vegas, NV 89030, APN 139-24-410-005 (hereinafter the 23 "Property"); 24

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1.	The Property was purchased on or about July 1, 1980 by Plaintiff MARK
	BERNSTEIN ("Plaintiff" or "Bernstein") and his then wife, Karen Bernstein
	from Sycamore Properties;

- 2. The Note on the loan was secured by first and second Deeds of Trusts, dated July 1, 1980, executed by Bernstein and his then wife, Karen Bernstein. The first and second Deeds of Trusts were recorded on July 9, 1980 as Instrument No. 1209825 in Book 1250, and Instrument No. 1209826 in Book 1250 in the Official Records in the County Recorder's Office of Clark County, Nevada;
- On or about June 13, 1994, the first and second Deeds of Trusts were assigned to Salvador Rodriguez. The Assignments of the first and second Deeds of Trusts were recorded on June 22, 1994 at Instrument No. 199406220001554 and Instrument No. 199406220001555;
- 4. Noteworld has no claim to title or possession in the Property. No amount of discovery will reveal documents that will change the fact that Noteworld makes no claim to possession or interest in the Property.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

- Summary judgment is appropriate because the pleadings and evidence demonstrate no genuine material issue remains to be decided in regards to Plaintiff's claim for Quiet Title against Noteworld;
- 2. Plaintiff's claim against Noteworld for Quiet Title fails as a matter of law;
- 3. Plaintiff may submit a proposed Second Amended Complaint.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated herein;
- Summary Judgment is appropriate in this matter because the pleadings and evidence demonstrate that no genuine material issue of facts remains to be

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		1	decided as to Plaintiff's First Cause of Action for Quiet Title Against
		2	Noteworld;
		3	3. Plaintiff may submit a proposed Second Amended Complaint within 20 days of
		4	entry of this order.
		5	DATED this day of January, 2010.
		6	
		7	JENNIFER P. TOGLIATTI
		8	DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
	107	1	
	CLP 3a 89 424	9	Respectfully Submitted By:
THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Phone (702) 435-4175 = Fax (702) 877-7424	tM, I Neva 877-7	10	
	F FIR gas, 7	11	THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM,
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TLE	STLE Ivd. L I75 =		David B. Sanders, Esq. (7895)
	2 CA; ew B 135-4	13	Huong X. Lam, Esq. (10916) 820 S. Valley View Boulevard
	OPEF ley Vi 702) 4	14	Las Vegas, NV 89107 (702) 435-4175 Telephone
	E CO	15	Attorneys for Defendant
	TH1 South	16	Noteworld, LLC
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LAVERGNE LAW GROUP

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The LaVergue Law Group

Attorneys and Counselors at Law 320 East Charleston Boulevard, Suite 203 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702)448-7981 Facsimile: (702)966-3117

MALCOLM P. LAVERGNE, ESQ. Licensed in New York, Texas and Nevada.

January 21, 2010

Via facsimile (702) 384-4789

Department 9
Eighth Judicial District
Regional Justice Court
200 Lewis Avenue
Les Vegas, Nevada 89155

Re:

Mark Berustein v. Noteworld, LLC et. al

Case No.: A 596386

Dear Department 9:

We are in receipt of Ms. Lam's letter dated January 21, 2010. This correspondence is to inform you that we did not receive any correspondence from Ms. Lam on December 30, 2009. Further, the changes that were incorporated into the Order were incomplete. Please forward said Order to our office for final review and signature.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely.

Malcolm P. LAVergne, Esq.

MPL/hc

Ce: Huong X. Lam, Esq. - Via faceimile (702) 877-7424



January 21, 2010

<u>Via Hand Delivery</u>

Department 9
Eighth Judicial District Court
Regional Justice Center
200 Lewis Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Re: Mark Bernstein vs. Noteworld, LLC et al. Case No.: A596386

Dear Department 9,

Please accept and incorporate this letter into the Order on Hearing November 24, 2009 that was dropped off at your chambers on January 8, 2010.

At the aforementioned hearing, it was ordered that the opposing counsel, Malcolm LaVergne, must approve the proposed order as to form and content. A proposed order was drafted and sent to Mr. LaVergne on November 24, 2009. He responded with suggested changes on December 4, 2009. We incorporated the changes and sent the proposed order back to Mr. LaVergne for approval on December 8, 2009. Receiving no response, we updated the proposed order and sent it to Mr. LaVergne on December 30, 2009 with the request that he respond no later than January 6, 2010. We have yet to receive a response. With that said, please consider granting the proposed Order on Hearing November 24, 2009.

Thank you for your kind consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions at (702)435-4175, ext. 4104

Huong X. Lam, Esq.

Sincerely

Licensed in Nevada

Cc: Malcolm LaVergne

LAS VEGAS · PHOENIX · DENVER · SALT LAKE CITY · CASPER · ALBUQUERQUE · PANAMA

In Affiliation with Castle, Meinhold & Stawiarski

820 South Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Telephone (702) 435-4175 • Facsimile (702) 877-7424

Electronically Filed 02/09/2010 03:06:16 PM **MATF** 1 David B. Sanders, Esq. **CLERK OF THE COURT** 2 Nevada State Bar No. 7895 Huong X. Lam, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 10916 3 THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 4 820 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 5 (702) 435-4175 Telephone Attorneys for Defendant Noteworld, LLC 6 7 **DISTRICT COURT** CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 MARK BERNSTEIN, an Individual 9 820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Plaintiff, Case No. A-09-596386-C Phone (702) 435-4175 o Fax (702) 877-7424 THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 10 VS. Dept. No. IX 11 NOTEWORLD, LLC, a Foreign Limited Liability Company; SALVADOR 12 RODRIGUEZ, an Individual; DOES I - X, Inclusive; and ROE Corporations I - X, 13 Inclusive. Defendants. 14 15 16 MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS COMES NOW Defendants, NOTEWORLD, LLC (hereinafter "Noteworld") by and 17 through its counsel of record, THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP, and hereby moves 18 this Court pursuant to NRS 18.010(2)(b) for an award of attorney's fees and costs. 19 20 This Motion is made and based upon the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the pleadings and papers on file herein, and any argument of counsel the court may 21 consider at the hearing of this Motion. 22 111 23 24 111

Qase 2:10-cv-00374-GMN -PAL Document 1-3 Filed 03/17/10 Page 27 of 53

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Phone (702) 435-4175 o Fax (702) 877-7424

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 18 day of March, 2010, at the hour of hambers, in Department 9, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, the undersigned will bring the foregoing Motion for hearing before the above-referenced Court.

Dated this 9^{th} day of February, 2010.

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP

/s/ Huong X. Lam, Esq.
David B. Sanders, Esq.
Nevada State Bar No. 7895
Huong X. Lam, Esq.
Nevada State Bar No. 10916
820 S. Valley View Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89107
(702) 435-4175 Telephone
Attorneys for Defendant
Noteworld, LLC

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

A. Brief Summary

This matter deals with real property located in Las Vegas, Nevada, commonly known as 2517 E. Tonopah Ave., N. Las Vegas, NV 89030, APN 139-24-410-005 (hereinafter the "Property"). The Property was purchased on or about July 1, 1980 by Plaintiff MARK BERNSTEIN ("Plaintiff" or "Bernstein") and his then wife, Karen Bernstein from Sycamore Properties. (See Exhibit A). The Note on the loan was secured by first and second Deeds of Trusts, dated July 1, 1980, executed by Bernstein and his then wife, Karen Bernstein. (See Exhibit B). The first and second Deeds of Trusts were recorded on July 9, 1980 as Instrument

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No. 1209825 in Book 1250, and Instrument No. 1209826 in Book 1250 in the Official Records in the County Recorder's Office of Clark County, Nevada. (See Exhibit C).

On or about June 13, 1994, the first and second Deeds of Trusts were assigned to Salvador Rodriguez. The Assignments of the first and second Deeds of Trusts were recorded on June 22, 1994 at Instrument No. 199406220001554 and Instrument No. 199406220001555. (See Exhibit D). On or about July 30, 2009, Bernstein filed the instant lawsuit for Quiet Title pursuant to NRS 40.010. Upon service of the Complaint, Noteworld contacted counsel for Bernstein and requested voluntary dismissal from the case because Noteworld is the servicer of the loan and "makes no claim to possession – in full or in part – to the properties at issue." (See Exhibit E). Despite this request, Noteworld was not dismissed from this case and as a consequence, has had to retain counsel and incur fees and costs to defend this matter.

Upon Noteworld's Motion to Dismiss, a hearing was held on November 24, 2009, and this Court held that summary judgment is appropriate in this matter because the pleadings and evidence demonstrate that no genuine material issue of facts remains to be decided as to Plaintiff's First Cause of Action for Quiet Title Against Noteworld. This Court also granted Plaintiff's Countermotion for Leave to File an Amended Complaint. On January 20, 2010, the Order on Hearing held on November 24, 2009 was entered whereby Plaintiff Bernstein was permitted 20 day within entry of the Order to submit his Amended Complaint. Plaintiff has not done so.

В. Legal Standard

NRS 18.010(2)(b) permits an award of attorney's fees when a claim "was brought without reasonable grounds to harass the prevailing party." See United Ins. Co. of Am. v. Chapman Indus., 120 Nev. 745, 748, 100 P.3d 664 (2004). A frivolous claim is one that is baseless, i.e., not well grounded in fact and warranted by existing law or a good faith argument

for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and brought by an attorney without reasonable and competent inquiry. *Simonian v. Univ. & Cmty, Coll. Sys.*, 122 Nev. 187, 128 P.3d 1057, 1063-65 (2006). A claim is groundless if it is fraudulent, especially if it is brought in bad faith or if the allegations of the complaint are not supported by any credible evidence at trial. *Allianz Ins. Co. v. Gagnon*, 109 nev. 990, 995-96, 860 P.2d 720 (1993). To support an award of attorneys fees on such grounds, "there must be evidence in the record supporting the proposition that the complaint was brought without reasonable grounds or to harass the other party." *Kahn v. Morse & Mowbray*, 121 Nev. 464, 479, 117 P.3d 227, 238 (2005).

Additionally, NRS 18.010 provides that courts are to liberally construe NRS 18.010(2)(b) in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all situations. The legislature expressed an intent that the court award attorney's fees and impose sanctions under NRCP 11 in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public. See also Trs. Of Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 525 Health & Welfare Trust Plan v. Developers Surety & Indem. Co., 120 Nev. 56, 84 P.3d 59 (2004) (suggesting the portion of the 2003 amendment stating that the court "shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations" also applies to NRS 18.010(2)(a)). Importantly, the bringing of one or more colorable claims does not excuse the bringing of other groundless claims. See Barozzi v. Benna, 112 Nev. 635, 918 P.2d 301 (1996); Bergman v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 856 P.2d 560 (1993).

C. An Award of Attorney's Fees and Costs is Appropriate in this Situation.

In the instant matter, upon service of the Complaint and prior to retaining counsel,

Noteworld contacted counsel for Bernstein and requested voluntary dismissal from the case
because Noteworld is the servicer of the loan and "makes no claim to possession – in full or in
part – to the properties at issue." (See Exhibit E). Despite this request, Noteworld was not
dismissed from this case and as a consequence, has had to retain counsel and incur fees and
costs to defend this matter.

Bernstein's Complaint for Quiet Title is frivolous because it is not grounded in fact and warranted by existing law. Noteworld was merely the servicer of the subject Note and Deed of Trust and stated so in their letter to Bernstein upon service of the Complaint. An award of attorney's fees is appropriate in this situation because Bernstein's Quiet Title action against Noteworld was frivolous and vexatious, overburdened limited judicial resources hindered the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increased Noteworld's costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public.

Bernstein's refusal to voluntarily dismiss Noteworld from the matter forced Noteworld to retain counsel in order to prepare and draft a Motion to Dismiss, a Reply in Support of the Motion to Dismiss and to appear at the hearing on the Motion. An award of attorney's fees and costs is appropriate in this situation based on the fact that Bernstein refused to voluntarily dismiss Noteworld from the Quiet Title action when Noteworld expressly stated that they make no claim, in full or in part, to the Property.

Noteworld has incurred \$4,430.00 thus far in attorney's fees and costs in defending this matter. It is anticipated that Noteworld will incur an additional \$750.00 for having to prepare this Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs and to attend the hearing. (Please see attached Affidavit at **Exhibit F**).

4 5 6 7 8 9 820 South Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Phone (702) 435-4175 o Fax (702) 877-7424 THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

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D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Defendant Noteworld respectfully requests an award of attorney's fees and costs for having to defend this case and to submit this motion.

DATED this 9th day of February, 2010.

THE COOPER CASTLE LAW FIRM, LLP

/s/ Huong X. Lam, Esq. David B. Sanders, Esq.

Nevada State Bar No. 7895 Huong X. Lam, Esq.

Nevada State Bar No. 10916 820 S. Valley View Boulevard

Las Vegas, NV 89107 (702) 435-4175 Telephone

Attorneys for Defendant Noteworld, LLC

Exhibit "A"

Exhibit "A"

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GRANT, BARGAIN, SALE DEED

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Il that real property situated in the	County of CLARK
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	E PARK NO. 3, as shown by map thereof on file in Bo he County Recorder of Clark County, Nevada.
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SUBJECT TO: 1. Taxes for the fiscal y	
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3. Dead of Trust of recor	d
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Exhibit "B"

Exhibit "B"

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Exhibit "C"

Exhibit "C"

BOOK 1250

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MARK G. SERNSTEIN AND KARIN BERNSTEIN,	
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BOOK 1250

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Exhibit "D"

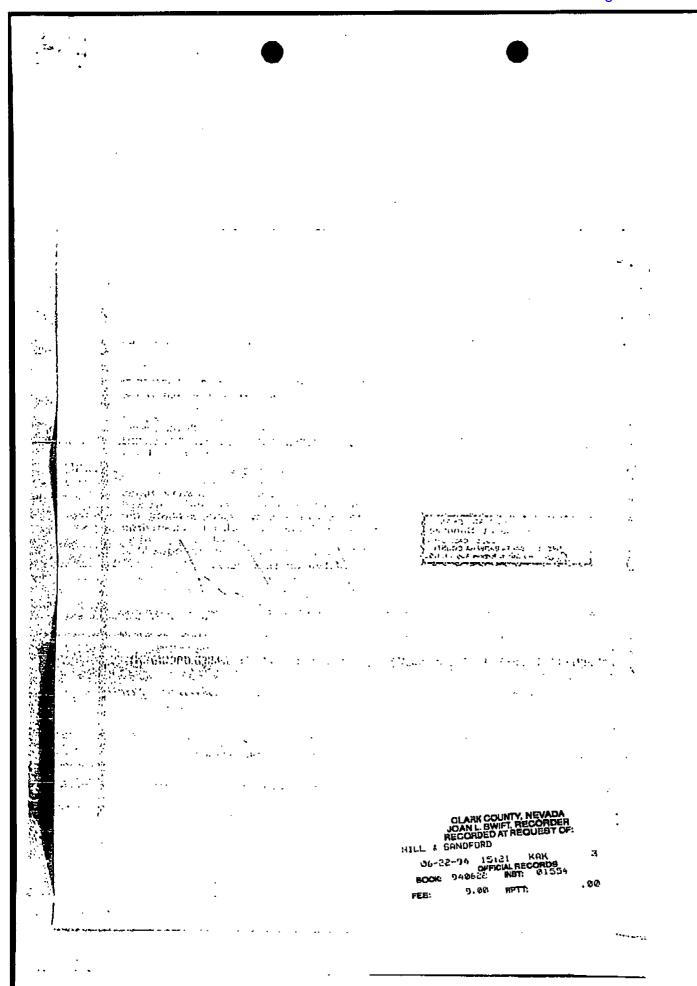
Exhibit "D"

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ADDRESS 800 BPRESIDIO AVE

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SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE -

Assignment of Deed of Trust

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned hereby grants, easigns and transfers to Enlysdor Rodriguez, a married man all beneficial interest under that certain Deed of Trust dated July 1, 1980 exercited by Mark G. Bernstein and Karin Bernstein

to Revitage Title and Secrey . Truster, and recorded as Instrument No. 1209826 on July 9, 1980 in book 1250 , page , of Official Records in the County Recorder's office of Clark County, Navada Restricts Low Money (6) And Clark County (6) An

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RECORDER'S MEMO
POSSIBLE POOR RECORD DUE TO
QUALITY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

TOGETHER with the notes or notes therein described or referred to, the money due and to become due thereon with interest, and all rights accorded or to accord under said Dead of Trust.

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51993 NATIONAL NOTARY ASSOCIATION + 5236 Returns Ave. P.O. Box 7184 + Centre Park. C.A. 91300, 2184

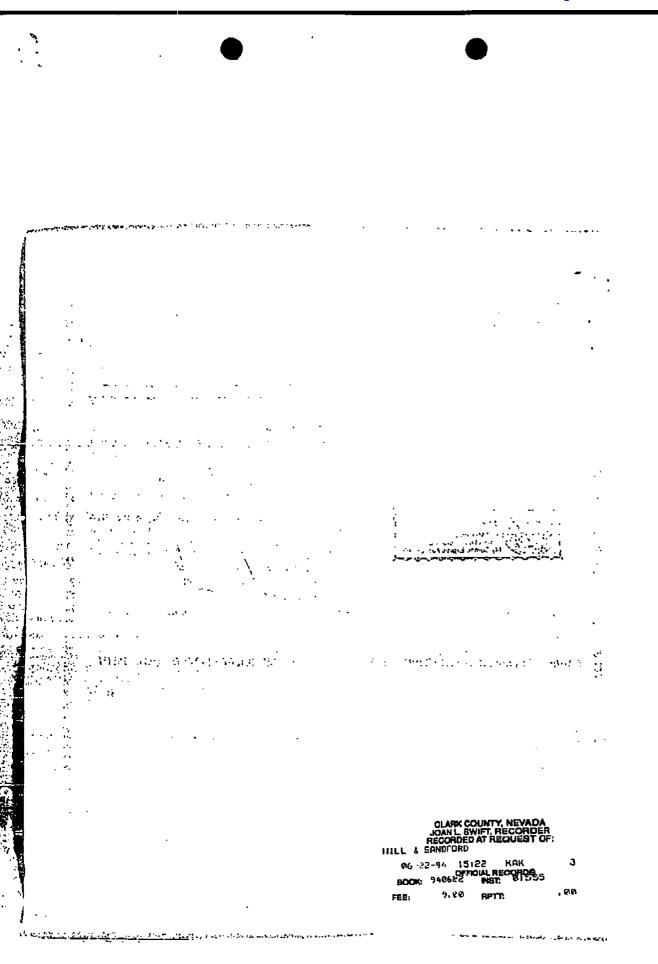


Exhibit "E"

Exhibit "E"

NoteWorld Servicing Center

October 9, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE AND MAIL

Mr. Malcolm P. LaVergne, Esq. The LaVergne Law Group 320 East Charleston Boulevard, Suite 203 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104

Re: Mark Bernstein v. NoteWorld, LLC, et al. (Case No. A09596386-C)

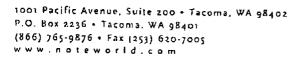
Dear Mr. LaVergne:

I am in receip: of the Summons and Complaint filed in the District Court Clark County, Nevada, Case No. A09596386-C by your client, Mr. Mark Bernstein.

After reviewing the allegations and claims for relief set forth in the Complaint, I was somewhat perplexed; most notably, by the allegations contained in Paragraph 15. Contrary to the allegations set forth therein, our records reflect that Mr. Bernstein has not "completed his payments" or "paid in full" either note (Account No. 300020095001054 or Account No. 300020095001053). In fact, he continued to make regular monthly payments for the entire period of April 2008 through July 2009 on both accounts. The last payments received from Mr. Bernstein were recorded on July 27, 2009.

As an initial matter, NoteWorld makes no claim to possession – in full or in part – to the properties at issue. Therefore, your client's quiet title claim against NoteWorld is erroneous. Second, because your client has not satisfied the terms of either note by rendering payment in full, his quiet title action is generally faulty. As of July 27, 2009, the principal balancing remaining on Account No. 300020095001054 is approximately \$8,728.80 and the principal balance remaining on Account No. 300020095001053 is approximately \$4,584.80. Unless your client has proof of full payoff, and thus, that he has satisfied the terms of one or both notes, his quiet title claim has no basis in law or fact.

Mr. Bernstein's complaint also alleges that the notices NoteWorld sent him regarding late fees were erroneous because he has paid "on-time throughout the history of the note payments." According to our records, Mr. Bernstein failed to make the following payments:





Mr. Malcolm P. Lavene October 9, 2009 Page 2

Account No. 300020095001053

- September 2001
- March 2002
- July 2007

Account No. 300020095001054

- March 2002
- July 2007

Under the terms of each Note Secured by a Deed of Trust, copies of which are attached hereto, payment is due on the first day of each month and "[i]n the event any payment is more than 15 days late, a late charge penalty of \$10.00 shall be paid." As indicated above, Account No. 300020095001053 was in arrears as of September 15, 2001 and started accruing a late penalty on September 16, 2001, and Account No. 300020095001054 was in arrears as of March 15, 2002 and started accruing a late penalty March 16, 2002. By notifying Mr. Bernstein that the accounts were accruing late penalties, NoteWorld acted consistent with the terms of the notes. If your client has some proof that payment was made on the above dates in a form of a cashed check or otherwise, please forward it to us immediately for further research. If your client has no proof, he may wish to seek a waiver of any late penalties that may be owed. To do so, however, he must contact Mr. Rodriguez directly. NoteWorld does not have the authority to waive late penalties; it is a matter between the parties. Notwithstanding the late penalty issue, even if Mr. Bernstein has proof that he made the unaccounted-for payments, the fact remains that he has not paid the notes in full and therefore, has not carned title to the properties at issue.

For the foregoing reasons, we would respectfully request that your client agree to voluntarily withdraw his Quite Title action against NoteWorld. If he will not agree to do so voluntarily, NoteWorld will be forced to hire an attorney in Nevada to oppose the action. In that case, NoteWorld will seek judgment against Mr. Bernstein for any attorneys' fees and costs incurred to oppose his Quiet Title action and/or to defend the claims Mr. Bernstein has brought against NoteWorld.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to call me at (253) 620-7042. In any event, I will follow-up with you early next week regarding your client's decision with respect to our request. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Danielle H. Kiersztyn

General Counsel

Enclosures

Exhibit "F"

Exhibit "F"

AFFIDAVIT OF HUONG X, LAM, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS

STATE OF NEVADA)
)s:
COUNTY OF CLARK)

1.8

HUONG X. LAM, ESQ., being first duly sworn deposes and states:

- I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada; I am an associate attorney with The Cooper Castle Law Firm, LLP, and I represent Defendant Noteworld, LLC, in the case titled Bernstein v. Noteworld, LLC, et. al., District Court Case No. A-09-596386-C.
- 2. I make this affidavit in support of the Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs and am competent to testify as to all matters contained herein.
- 3. That Noteworld has incurred attorney's fees and costs in this litigation through February 9, 2010, in the amount of \$4,430.00. These attorney's fees and costs were incurred in reviewing all documents in the file, investigating the status of the title regarding the subject property; corresponding with attorney for Plaintiff Bernstein; preparing and drafting pleadings, including motions and order; communicating with my client; and conducting legal research.
- 4. That it is anticipated that an additional that Noteworld will incur an additional \$750.00 for having to prepare and draft the present Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, supporting Affidavit, and to attend the hearing.

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5. That the attorney's fees incurred represent the fair and reasonable value of the legal services necessarily performed to protect Noteworld's interests as a result of this litigation. Further Affiant sayeth naught. day of February, 2010. б HUØNG X. LAM, ESQ. SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me **MADELEINE BURROUGHS** Notary Public, State of Nevada Appointment No. 05-93700-1 My Appt. Expires June 21, 2012 in and for said County and State. NOTARY PUBL 1.7